



# A PATHWAY TO STATE & NATIONAL REFORM TO IMPROVE CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES



## Fall 2017 Issue

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*This issue of the Title IV-E California Well-Being Project (Project) newsletter includes results from the staff/stakeholder surveys conducted during the Fall Feedback Campaign, an updated map of the Project demonstration sites and the individual county sub-studies, and a county corner discussion with Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services.*

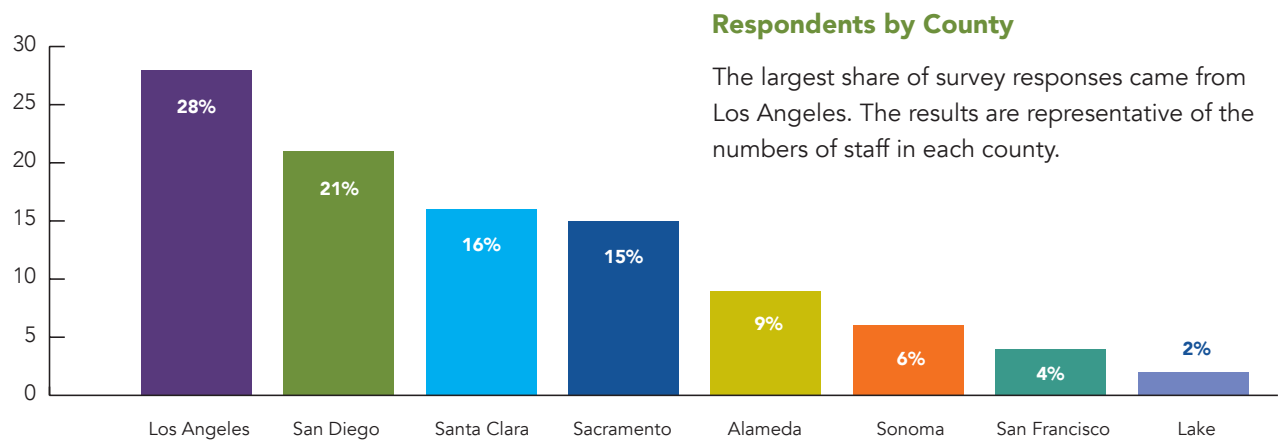
## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE STAFF/STAKEHOLDERS SURVEY

The Evaluation Steering Committee met on November 2nd to discuss early data points gleaned from the staff/stakeholders surveys conducted during the Fall Feedback Campaign months of September and October.

These early results shed some light on the different ways that staff and stakeholders within child welfare and juvenile probation agencies are implementing Safety Organized Practice/Core Practice Model (SOP/CPM) and Wraparound, respectively. This year, a total of 2,925 surveys were either totally or partially completed; more than double the surveys that were collected last year.

*Congratulations, counties, on your efforts to better inform the evaluation of the California Well-Being Project!*

The evaluation team will be conducting additional analyses of the entire data set and will share the results, including a county-by-county analysis, in Spring 2018. Below are highlights from the evaluation team presentation:



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE STAFF/STAKEHOLDERS SURVEY, CONTINUED

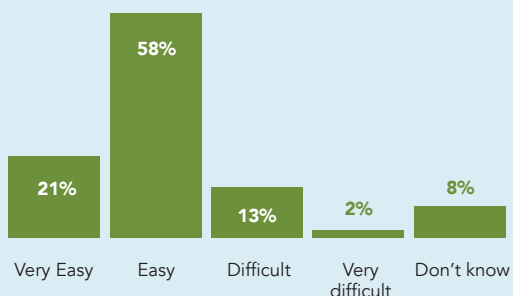
### Child Welfare Performance Measures

Among Child Welfare workers, a majority of respondents stated that Family Engagement was the aspect of SOP/CPM implementation they were most comfortable with, as 79% of workers responded that this aspect was "Very Easy" or "Easy".

Most respondents stated that they use case reviews in order to measure implementation fidelity, followed by monitoring data measures and observations.

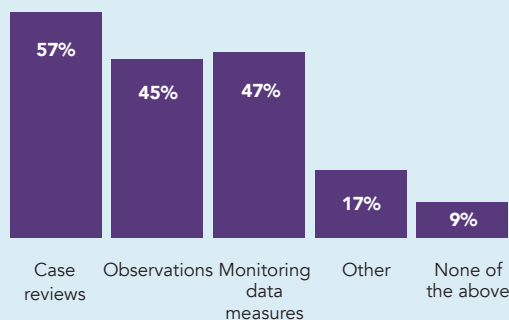
#### SOP/CPM Implementation Strengths

Please rate how easy/difficult family engagement is to implement from your perspective.



#### Fidelity Measures

What efforts do you employ to measure implementation fidelity?



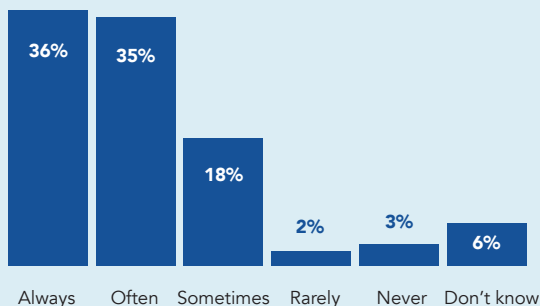
### Probation Performance Measures

The results from Probation agency respondents show that a majority of respondents "Always" or "Often" obtain input from youth in developing a case plan.

A majority of respondents stated that they use case reviews in order to measure implementation fidelity, followed by observations.

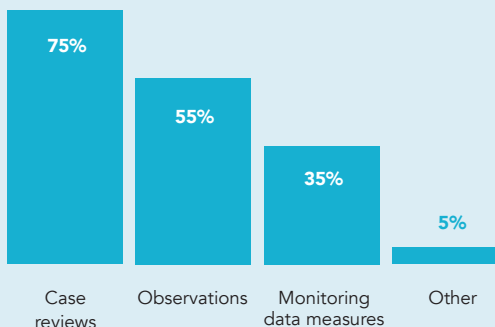
#### Wraparound Fidelity Measures: Strengths

How often do you get input from the youth in developing a case plan?



#### Fidelity Measures

What efforts do you employ to measure implementation fidelity?



### ★ Alameda County

Alameda County Child and Family Services (CFS) is implementing the “Positive Parenting Program,” a program for parents with children in either out-of-home or in-home placements. The program serves children 0-18 years old. Alameda CFS is also implementing a program for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children ages 12-18 years old.

Alameda County Probation Department (ACPD) is implementing the Collaborative Court program. It serves youth between the ages of 11-17 in order to reduce recidivism. ACPD is also implementing Multi-Disciplinary Family Therapy, an intervention designed as an alternative to out-of-home placement and as a model of aftercare when appropriate. Seventy-five percent of the children who completed the program have had no new sustained offenses within six months of their release.

### ★ Sacramento County

The Sacramento County Child Protective Services implementation focuses on a Family Finding and Kinship Support program. This program provides supportive services to relative caregivers and children placed in their care. Sacramento County is also implementing Prevention Initiative which is an intervention that aims to improve parenting skills among participants, reduce referrals to Child Protective Services, and enable safe home environments. The program plays an important role in the provision of services to African American families.

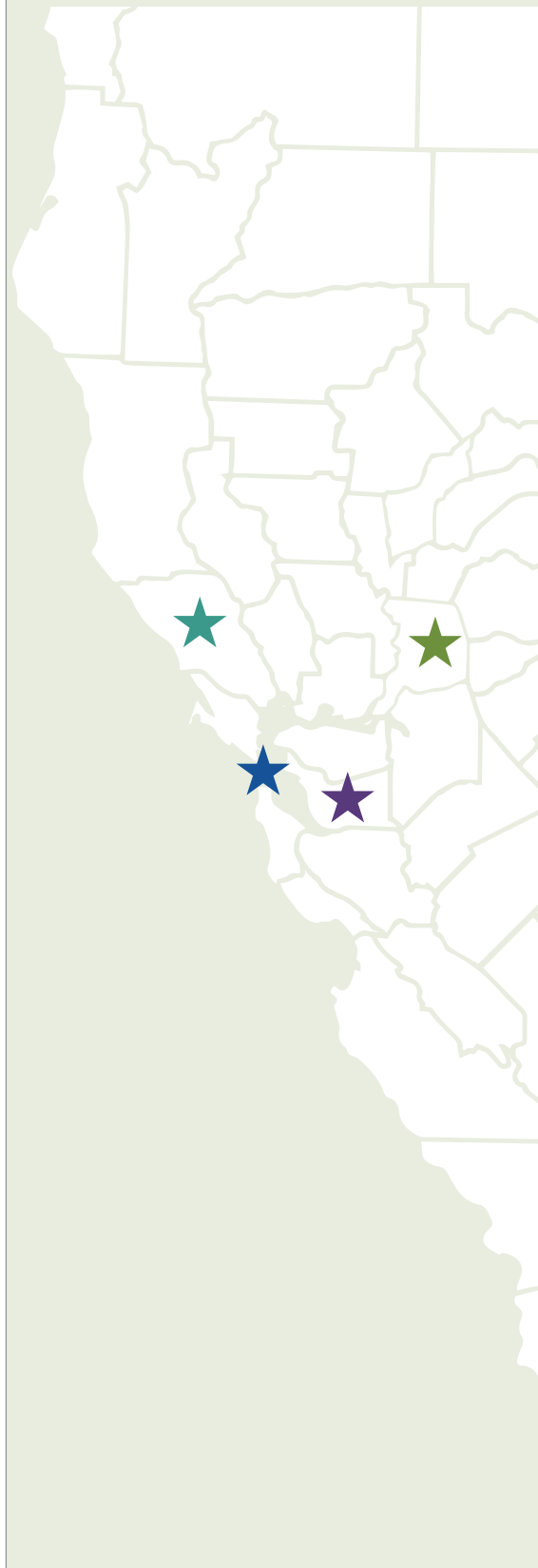
### ★ San Francisco County

The San Francisco County Family and Children’s Services county’s implementation focuses on Family Wraparound as an alternative to group home placement. It involves a family-centered, strengths-based, needs-driven planning process for creating services and supports for children and youth.

The San Francisco County Juvenile Probation Department implementation focuses on the Parent Partners program. The program provides peer support groups to parents who have successfully achieved family stabilization.

### ★ Sonoma County

The County of Sonoma, Family, Youth and Children’s Division (FYCD) implementation focuses on the Parent Orientation & Parent Mentor Program. It assists parents in the Court Family Maintenance and Family Reunification programs by providing information on the child welfare, foster care, and dependency court processes. Sonoma FYCD also implemented the Housing Assistance & Permanency Program.



## CALIFORNIA WELL-BEING PROJECT LANDSCAPE – OPTIONAL INTERVENTIONS CONTINUED

### ★ Santa Clara County

The Santa Clara County Social Service Agency implementation focuses on a Community-Driven Prevention program. Its goal is to address risks associated with poverty and building systems that advocate for policy improvements in the community.

### ★ Los Angeles County

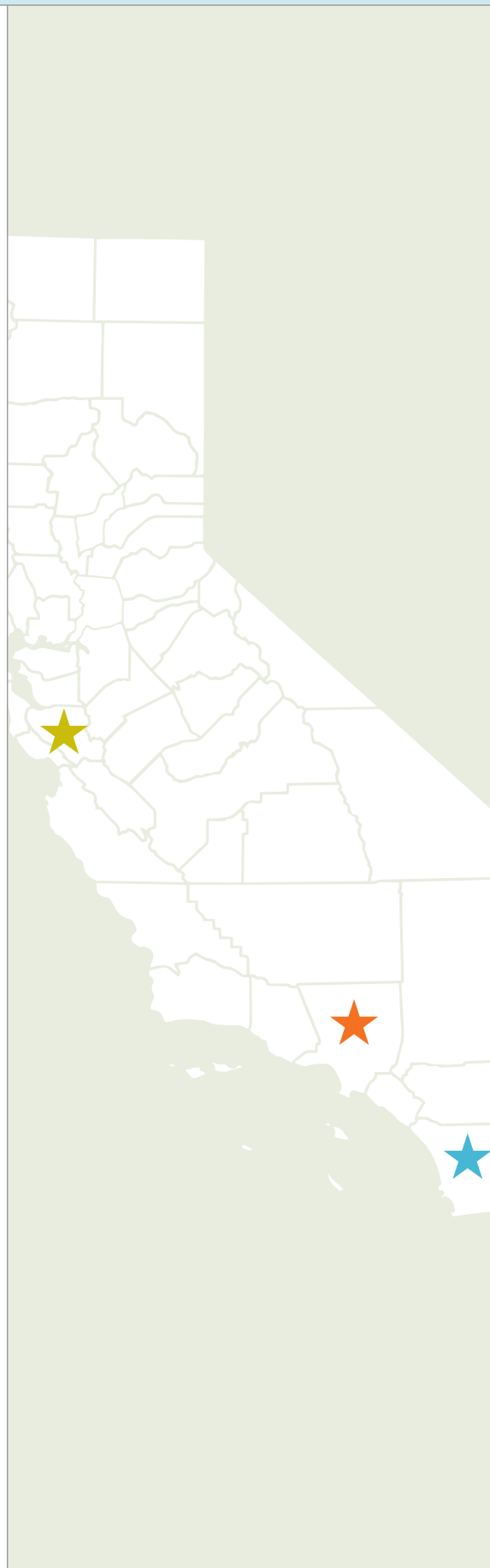
The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services implementation focuses on the Prevention and Aftercare Population program and utilizes the Protective Factor Survey to prevent entry or re-entry into the system. It is also implementing Partnerships for Families, comprised of a variety of preventative services offered to pregnant women and families with children at risk for child maltreatment.

Los Angeles Probation Department Agency county's implementation focuses on Functional Family Therapy. It is a family focused case management approach for the family and youth to manage crises which provides services and offers strengths-based supervision.

### ★ San Diego County

The San Diego County Child Welfare Services implementation focuses on the Family Visits Coaching program which helps parents engage with their children during visits. The program serves children between the ages of 0-17 years old. The county is also implementing Permanent Connections which utilizes family finding efforts to find permanent connections for youth.

San Diego County Probation Department is also implementing Permanent Connections, a program that helps families establish a network of support for children disconnected, or at risk of being disconnected, from their family and community due to placement out of their home.



## COUNTY CORNER: LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

Los Angeles County has participated in various Title IV-E Waiver Demonstrations since 1997. The L.A. Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) requested to demonstrate CPM and evaluating its effects instead of SOP, the intervention used in the other Title IV-E Waiver sites. SOP and CPM are closely aligned as they both aim to support families through engagement, family voice and meeting families where they are.

**Similar to SOP, the CPM is comprised of basic activities of collaborative work with children, youth, and families involved with child welfare. They are:**

- **Prevention** - reduce risk factors and strengthen protective factors in families
- **Engagement** - family-centered and strengths-based approach in partnering with families
- **Assessment** - a process of discovery with families that leads to understanding involvement with child welfare
- **Planning and Service Delivery** - working with families to create plans that build off their strengths
- **Monitoring and adapting** - continually evaluate the effectiveness of the plan and to rework as needed
- **Transition** - ensure a successful transition from formal (institutional supports) to informal supports

*“While we may not be implementing SOP specifically, we are still evaluating the effectiveness of concepts like incorporating family voice and choice and increasing family engagement.”*

*Alan Weisbart, CSA II, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services*

Additionally, L.A. DCFS chose to evaluate Prevention and Aftercare Services. This evaluation will measure the effectiveness of serving a population that may or may not be formally involved in the child welfare system. Families in difficult situations can access resources without revealing their names to the county. Through a data sharing agreement, the evaluators can receive information about this population that gets shared with Los Angeles County as anonymous, aggregated data. This valuable work, while not part of the waiver evaluation contract, is in progress.

Los Angeles County has also benefited from their involvement in the Project through the flexible funding that allows them to focus on preventing involvement in the child welfare system and the ability to partner with Probation.

*“We have a true working partnership with our Probation counterparts. And the Project has also allowed us to offer preventive services. As a social worker, we often respond to crises. Through the Project, we can respond to earlier indicators of family instability, before there’s a full-blown crisis.”*

*Alan Weisbart, CSA II, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services*

### *State of Fidelity across the Well-Being Project Demonstration Sites*

- 4 of 7 Child Welfare Services and 3 of 7 Juvenile Probation agencies indicate having an implementation team in place for SOP and Wraparound respectively.
- 4 of 7 counties indicate having fidelity tools in place.
- Most counties are using a case review type tool to monitor and ensure the fidelity of SOP.
- Some methods to prevent implementation drift include: maintaining monthly meetings, provider activities, ongoing trainings and high fidelity wrap.
- CDSS has offered fidelity coaching to counties on an individual basis as well as learning sessions that will begin in the early part of the year
- Counties would like to convene with others working on fidelity assessments (SOP/CPM Wraparound) in order to strategize on how to integrate fidelity assessment into Child and Family Service Reviews (CSFR) case reviews and Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI).

### *Examples of How Counties are Measuring Fidelity*

#### **CHILD WELFARE**

##### **Los Angeles County**

Using a Quality Service Review which measures all aspects of the Core Practice Model. It also uses surveys to measure fidelity.

##### **Santa Clara**

Currently using a fidelity assessment tool, a web-based survey for staff and stakeholders, parent guardian survey, and a system support survey.

##### **San Francisco County**

Uses a UC Davis/University of Nebraska tool for supervisors to rate staff, and for staff to rate supervisory behaviors. It also completes focus groups to understand data resulting from the use of this tool. Management then reviews the results of the fidelity assessment and aligns trainings, coaching and other interventions with the findings.

#### **JUVENILE PROBATION**

##### **Sacramento**

Sacramento County Probation uses Team Observation Measures, which is analyzed by the research division annually.

##### **Santa Clara**

Santa Clara Probation engages in field observation of Child and Family Team meetings and Team Decision Making meetings, satisfaction surveys, and quarterly one-on-one sessions with providers & staff, feedback from supervisors, staff, providers, youth & families.

## THE CALIFORNIA WELL-BEING PROJECT ANNUAL WAIVER MEETING

### *Highlights from the Annual Waiver Meeting*

The Annual Waiver Meeting took place November 14-15 in Sacramento.

The agenda included an Executive Panel to discuss the vision for the State including intersections between CCR and the Project, discussion of federal legislation, and outcomes of other Waiver states.

After the welcome remarks, Will Lightbourne, Director of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), Greg Rose, Deputy Director, CDSS Children and Family Services Division, Mary Sheppard, Chief of the CDSS Child Protection and Family Support Branch and Sharon King Program Specialist from the Children's Bureau Administration for Children and Families, Region 9, participated in an "Executive Panel" and Q&A session.



**From Left to Right:**  
Will Lightbourne, Mary Sheppard, Sharon King, Greg Rose

The Project's evaluator, Dr. Elizabeth Harris, led a discussion on creating the context for implementation and sustainability, and also provided an overview of data and findings.

Attendees also participated in round table discussions between county teams on sustainability planning and a Finance 101 presentation by Don Winstead which evaluated statewide and county-wide fiscal impact of the Waiver in comparison to caseload as well as taking a look at Waiver spending trends in other Waiver states.

More Highlights and a summary of the Annual Waiver Meeting will be included in the next issue of the newsletter.

### ***Save the Date:***

The first SOP Collaborative of 2018 will take place in San Diego on January 23rd.

Probation workers and stakeholders will meet on January 19th for a Wraparound Collaborative meeting in San Jose.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PROJECT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**[California Well-Being Project Website](#)**

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